

BIRD CONTROL AND REDUCTION

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ABSTRACT

The Paper summarises methods used on Vienna International Airport to reduce bird hazards.

Vienna Airport plc as holder and operator of Vienna International Airport (VIE) also fulfils tasks in connection with bird control and reduction through its Safety & Security Division.

The measures recommended in the expert opinion of Dr. Maria Elisabeth Wolf have been largely put into practice and are in progress, respectively. In 1993 only 1.62 bird strikes were recorded for 10.000 aircraft movements while in 1988 the rate was still 5.8.

In the expert opinion the garbage dump situated in the vicinity of the airport was still judged to be mainly responsible for the bird strikes that occurred at Vienna International Airport. In 1993 the separation of waste was introduced in Austria. Biogenic waste is separated from waste that cannot be recycled. By this procedure the airport was rendered unattractive to the birds previously encountered at the garbage dump. Edible material is partly further processed to compost in a special hall which is inaccessible to birds. Moreover, the garbage dump personnel uses various kinds of crackers and in addition thereto also gas canons.

The agricultural utilisation has been abandoned almost completely and the areas have been recultivated to long grass.

Every year during the winter months the bird's nests are removed as far as they can be reached.

Two operational vehicles of Vienna International Airport are equipped with recording-tape and loud-speaker equipment. Stress calls are replayed in case the respective species of birds is observed. In addition thereto various kinds of crackers are deployed against birds present at the airport.

Also the occasional use of bird dummies produced by the airport itself in connection with pistol blasts has proved successful. In this case the shooting of a member of the same species is simulated to the birds present.

The experiments to deploy hunting hawks to scare birds have been suspended. A certain number of animals and personnel would have to be provided, and according to the view and experience of experts no results have so far been achieved by these measures of bird scaring at busy civil airports. It cannot be excluded that the hawks themselves strike landing or departing aircraft.

All measures taken by Vienna International Airport to prevent bird strike are basically designed to save the animals and they represent mere measures to scare them in order to prompt them to move from the airport area. In the international comparison 1.62 bird strikes for 10.000 aircraft movements in scheduled and non-scheduled traffic, 1.3, including movements of General Aviation, represent a good rate, and Vienna International Airport will endeavour to maintain this safety standard and, if possible, further improve it.

Should you need any further information please contact Vienna Airport plc.